

Appl. No. 10/767,981
Amendment dated February 10, 2006
Reply to Office Action of November 16, 2005

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) The catheter of claim 21, wherein a proximal portion of the channel includes the ~~the~~ ^{[[a]]} C-shaped cross-sectional profile, and a distal portion of the channel includes the ~~the~~ ^{[[a]]} U-shaped cross-sectional profile.

20. (Currently Amended) The catheter of claim 21, wherein a proximal portion of the channel includes the ~~the~~ ^{[[a]]} U-shaped cross-sectional profile, and a distal portion of the channel includes the ~~the~~ ^{[[a]]} C-shaped cross-sectional profile.

21. (Currently Amended) A catheter for use in biliary procedures, the catheter comprising a shaft having a proximal end and a distal end and defining:

a guidewire lumen carried by the shaft extending from a location proximal the distal end of the shaft to a first location proximate the distal end of the shaft;

an extended opening into the guidewire lumen through a wall of the shaft and extending longitudinally from a second location proximate the first location to the distal end of the shaft,

wherein the extended opening and the guidewire lumen combined define a channel having a U-shape along a first portion and a C-shape along a second portion.

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22. (Currently Amended) A kit for use in biliary procedures comprising:
a catheter having a shaft with a proximal end and a distal end, the catheter defining a guidewire lumen extending through at least a distal portion of the shaft and a channel providing access to the guide wire lumen, the channel extending longitudinally from a location distal the proximal end of the catheter to the distal end of the shaft, the channel having a U-shape along a first portion and a C-shape along a second portion; and

an elongate tubular member sized slide through a portion of the guidewire lumen, the elongate tubular member being sized to prevent it from moving laterally through at least a portion of the channel.

23. (Currently Amended) The catheter kit of claim 22, ~~wherein the channel has a U-shape along a first portion and a C-shape along a second portion~~, wherein the elongate tubular member is sized and shaped to prevent it from laterally exiting the channel in along the second portion.

24. (Previously Presented) The catheter kit of claim 23, wherein the first portion is distal of the second portion.

25. (Previously Presented) The catheter kit of claim 23, wherein the first portion is proximal of the second portion.

26. (Previously Presented) The catheter kit of claim 22, wherein the elongate tubular member is longer than the catheter.

27. (Previously Presented) The catheter kit of claim 22, wherein the elongate member includes an outer portion sized to fit within at least a portion of the channel.

28. (Previously Presented) The catheter kit of claim 27, wherein the outer portion is axially elongated.

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29. (Previously Presented) The catheter kit of claim 28, wherein the outer portion is shaped to mate against an axial portion of the channel.

30. (Previously Presented) The catheter kit of claim 22, wherein the elongate tubular member defines a lumen adapted to receive a guidewire.

31. (Previously Presented) The catheter kit of claim 22, wherein the catheter comprises entry means allowing entry of the elongate member into the guidewire lumen.

32. (Previously Presented) The catheter kit of claim 31, wherein the entry means includes an opening in the catheter shaft connected to the channel, the opening being sized for passage of the elongate member therethrough.

33. (Previously Presented) The catheter kit of claim 31, wherein the entry means includes a U-shaped portion of the channel.

34-38. (Canceled)